PHN 15-364

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 under the provisions of Rule 116 as follows:

1. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A circuit arrangement for operating a discharge lamp, the circuit arrangement having reduced power loss, comprising:

a first circuit for generating a second DC voltage from a first DC voltage, including

input terminals for connection to a voltage source having a cathode and an anode for supplying the first circuit with the first DC voltage,

a switching element that is not self-oscillating,

a <u>separate</u> control circuit coupled to the switching element for changing the conductive state of the switching element,

a unidirectional element, and

a transformer having a primary and a secondary winding; and

a second circuit coupled to the secondary winding for supplying current to the discharge lamp;

wherein the secondary winding, the input terminals, and the second circuit are coupled together such that the second circuit is supplied by a voltage whose amplitude is

PHN 15-364

equal to the sum of the first DC voltage and the second DC voltage in order to transfer some power from the voltage source directly to the [secondary] second circuit without passing through the transformer,

thereby avoiding power loss that would result if the power directly transferred from the voltage source to the [secondary] second circuit were instead transferred to the [secondary] second circuit through the transformer.

Claim 2, line 1, change "Claim 1" to --Claim 7--.

Claim 4, line 1, change "Claim 1" to --Claim 7--.

- 7. (AMENDED) A circuit arrangement [as claimed in Claim
 1,] for operating a discharge lamp, the circuit arrangement
 having reduced power loss, comprising:
- a first circuit for generating a second DC voltage from a first DC voltage, including

input terminals for connection to a voltage source having a cathode and an anode for supplying the first circuit with the first DC voltage,

a switching element,

a control circuit coupled to the switching element for changing the conductive state of the switching element,